

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Eighth Suffolk Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Eighth Suffolk Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 20.5% (24,798) reside in the Eighth Suffolk Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (4,712) of Eighth Suffolk Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 81.5% of admissions from the Eighth Suffolk Representative District were male and 18.5% were female.
- Over 69.2% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 51.8% of admissions were white non-Latino, 27.5% were black non-Latino, 17.7% were Latino, 0.3% were Asians, and 2.7% were other racial categories.
- 72.6% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 7.5% were married, and 12.5% reported not to be married now.
- 30.8% of admissions had less than high school education, 50.2% completed high school, and 18.9% had more than high school education.
- 11.8% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 58.3% of those admitted were homeless.
- 7.2% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

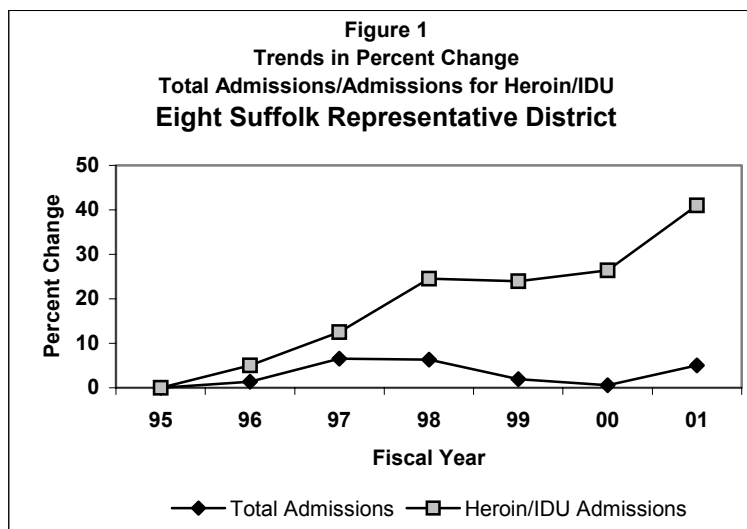
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Eighth Suffolk Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Eighth Suffolk Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	23,605	18,259	6,627	9,663	6,991	7,551	4,675
FY '96	23,929	18,056	6,450	9,171	6,894	8,017	4,823
FY '97	25,144	19,386	6,404	8,515	6,966	8,498	5,259
FY '98	25,102	18,655	6,107	7,662	5,757	9,201	6,026
FY '99	24,064	17,875	5,585	7,388	5,366	9,257	5,897
FY '00	23,744	17,340	5,223	6,819	4,836	9,424	6,031
FY '01	24,798	17,421	5,532	6,629	4,414	10,822	6,418

- Since FY 1995, residents of Eighth Suffolk Representative District reported a decrease in alcohol use, but a steady increase in heroin use. Alcohol use decreased by 4%, while heroin use increased by 43%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting marijuana use decreased by 16%, cocaine by 31%, and crack use by 36%.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Eighth Suffolk Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 5% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 41%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Eighth Suffolk Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	52.1%	35.8%	2.9%	3.3%	3.8%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, alcohol and crack as a primary drug was higher, and, marijuana and cocaine was lower within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000